



Interdisciplinary Studies Late Spring '19 Newsletter

Director's Notes



Dr. Wayne Bowen
Program Director

An IDS degree is like “Avengers: Endgame.” I promise – no spoilers, but go with me on this for a moment. Throughout the twenty-one films within the Marvel Cinematic Universe that preceded this film, beginning with 2008’s Iron Man, filmgoers have engaged with bits and pieces of the overall story arc. From the character development, to subplots later revealed as central, to the end-credit scenes that hinted at what would come next, Marvel fans have wandered from episode to episode, without exactly knowing the path.

Almost no heroes set out to be what they eventually became. Spiderman did not plan to be bitten by a radioactive spider and even Captain America, who volunteered for the Super Soldier program to fight the Nazis, did not understand what he would

become. So how did you get to where you are now?

Perhaps at first you thought you were Tony Stark: engineer, inventor, and tech-billionaire. For all of his eccentric ways, however, Stark most certainly successfully completed courses in advanced math and science. If not a business major, he clearly mastered finance and marketing as CEO of Stark Industries. If you saw yourself as Stark, but ran into obstacles in that universe, what then?

Maybe you thought you were Black Panther or Thor, following expectations for their trajectory. Both heroes initially followed family traditions and hints. Some students choose career fields in medicine, engineering, or law based more on what their parents want than what is really in their hearts. If the motivation is coming from someone else, those external drives may not be sufficient to get a student through a major. As amazing as they are, even Thor and Black Panther questioned assuming their father’s role.

The path most common for an IDS student seems to be that of Carol Danvers. As a young woman, she saw her path as a US Air Force pilot. As it happens, external forces and her own choices interfered with this plan, and she becomes Captain Marvel – part-human, part-Kree, fulfilling her greatest potential as the most powerful hero in the universe, and an indispensable player in “Avengers: Endgame.”

So, what kind of super hero will you be? How will you contribute to making the universe a better place? Will you defeat the equivalent of Thanos in your life? As you proceed on your heroic path, remember that questioning your destiny, having moments of weakness and doubt, and accepting that it is ok to depend on others at times, is all part of being human. Or superhuman ...

Avengers Assemble!

Dr. Wayne H. Bowen



Carol Danvers
Photo credit: Marvel Press Kit

FAST FACTS:

- ✓ UCF was recently designated as a [Hispanic Serving Institution](#).
- ✓ The Pegasus Path planning tool will become available to Environmental Studies B.S. majors starting Fall 2019.
- ✓ The College of Undergraduate Studies Student Engagement Center to open prior to the start of the Fall 2019 term.
- ✓ The IDS Bachelor of Arts degree at UCF was named by [Best Colleges.com](#) as the #1 online liberal arts degree program.



Interdisciplinary Studies Spotlight: Fair Trade at UCF

Fair Trade at UCF got the opportunity to attend the Fair Trade Campaigns National Conference in Chicago earlier this semester from March 1-3, 2019. This group is associated with the IDS Environmental Studies Program. Fair Trade Campaigns presented three members with a travel stipend to cover all expenses, including airfare, lodging, and the conference fees. Our students flew into Chicago on Friday March 1st and settled in for the next two days of speakers, engaging breakout sessions, and meeting new people working on spreading the Fair Trade message around the world.

The students who attended said that the best thing about the conference was the variety of speakers that shared their messages. Fair Trade USA's founder and CEO, Paul Rice, spoke about his travels to Africa, where local coffee farmers have seen extraordinary impacts from Fair Trade.



(Left to right) Angela Ferebee, Sean Adams, Fair Trade USA founder Paul Rice, and Nicole Kraemer.

He shared the story of a Rwandan coffee farmer named Jean Marie Bicamumakuba, who helped form a coffee cooperative in his community. Thanks to Fair Trade, Jean Marie earns three times what the normal Rwandan coffee farmer does, and it has allowed him to send his six children to school, four of which have graduated high school already – a huge accomplishment for their culture. He said “We are happy,” and this sentiment was echoed by many other speakers who shared their stories of happiness spread by the global Fair Trade movement (*continued on next page*).

Interdisciplinary Studies Spotlight

In the students' favorite breakout session, titled "Coffee and Gender Equality: Women and Coffee," they said that they heard the stories from three women about how fair trade has improved the livelihoods of female farmers around the world simply by providing them the opportunity to work, something Americans may take for granted. Students also heard about African villages where women were getting their first opportunities to work thanks to Fair Trade. They learned that when husbands saw the economic benefits of allowing their wives to farm, they picked up extra responsibilities around the house and encouraged their wives to go out



The student nametags for the Fair Trade UCF Instagram page

and work, which is something very progressive for some of these villages. They also heard from the leader of a Peruvian all-female coffee cooperative, who told about how Fair Trade has become an opportunity for female empowerment. When people are willing to spend a few more cents on their Café Femenino, it allows these women to make more money than many women in the area have an opportunity to. Students learned that not only is Fair Trade a vehicle for economic success in impoverished parts of the world, it is a powerful source of gender equality in these places as well.

The main takeaway the students reported getting from the event was a sense of social responsibility. They said that the one message echoed by everyone who spoke was that we can make a difference as individuals. When people are willing to spend slightly more money to buy a

product with such important social capital attached to it, the results are extraordinary. If we continue to share the stories of these people and promote their products, Fair Trade will continue to grow. In particular, they said they realized that if we can get UCF designated as the largest Fair Trade university in America, it could have big impacts worldwide. These students brought home knowledge, ideas for the campaign, a sense of social responsibility, and a plan to use these to help make UCF and the world a better place.



Sean, Nicole, and Angela on the main stage after the conference ended.

College of Undergraduate Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies Program *Student Society News*

Building community among Interdisciplinary Studies students has been an important objective of the IDS program, and to this end, the IDS Student Society along with the Alpha Iota Sigma Honor Society have had a busy year. The focus has been on educational, social, and service activities on campus and throughout the broader community.

As a joint venture, the two societies initiated an open-forum discussion series with three installments so far. The objective for the Issues and Ideas Open Forum Series is to provide a platform to put IDS principles into practice in bringing multiple perspectives to bear on complex issues. These forums feature discussions with faculty members from across the UCF campus. The first discussion was entitled “Diversity and Inclusion: Is inclusive diversity on campus possible?” Dr. Jonathon Cox from the Department of Sociology joined students from our program to lead the conversation. The second discussion, entitled “Climate Change and Food Security” was led by IDS’ own Dr. Richard Plate. In April, Dr. Hugh Potter from Criminal Justice joined the group to share his expertise on human trafficking in local communities. Each of these discussions was well-attended and the conversations were lively and engaged. The IDS Student Societies hope to continue this series next year and to broaden participation to include students, faculty, and staff from across the UCF community.

Students from both IDS societies organized a community service event at the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida where students and faculty worked together to sort and box donations. This was a great opportunity to meet other community groups and individuals while raising the profile of the program and the students, and it was fun! For the upcoming year, the goal is to facilitate a similar event each semester.

“*Doing good in the world*” is the motto behind these initiatives (*continued on next page*).



IDS students with IDS faculty member, Dr. Sharon Woodill at the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida community service event.

College of Undergraduate Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies Program Student Society News

Society members have been meeting regularly to plan events and carry out the general business of the societies, but the meetings are not all business. The meetings have been opportunities to build relationships and collaborations while planning fundraisers and social events for IDS students. The IDS students and faculty in the societies facilitate regular social events for IDS students each semester, and look forward to your presence and involvement!

In addition to the IDS Student Society, there is the Alpha Iota Sigma Honor Society. The AIS Honor Society welcomed eight new members this year, and they have set forth an ambitious agenda for the upcoming year. An editorial board for an online student journal has been assembled and an initial call for content has been circulated. The new journal, *Inside Out: Issues and Ideas in Interdisciplinary Studies*, is on schedule for its inaugural edition in the summer of 2019. The AIS Honor Society has members from both the Interdisciplinary Studies undergraduate program and the Interdisciplinary Studies graduate program, and as such, it provides an ideal forum for collaboration between the two programs. Members are planning a research symposium for the Fall 2019 semester that will allow students to share their academic endeavors with fellow students and the UCF community while building important presentation skills.



IDS Alpha Iota Sigma Honor Society 2019 Inductees. Left to right, Christey Oberbeck, Dr. Sharon Woodill, Alexis Williamson, Sarah Swiersz, Aly Rutherford, Maria Maker, Raven Killing, Vicky Chuong, Jady Chen, Ryan Bare, and Rhyan Grant.

Both the Interdisciplinary Studies Student Society and the AIS Honor Society are welcoming new members and look forward to having more students involved. There are plenty of leadership opportunities available throughout the year. Please consider getting involved and contributing to the efforts to foster and support a vibrant interdisciplinary studies community.

Interdisciplinary Studies News

*Wishing all the best to our Spring 2019
Interdisciplinary Studies and Environmental Studies graduating*

The following students graduated with honors. Listed alphabetically and by honors:

Bachelor of Science or Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, Magna Cum Laude

Benedick, Jonay Lynn: Bachelor of Science
Burrello, Victoria Ellena: Bachelor of Arts
Campbell, Heather Amanda: Bachelor of Arts
Lerner, Andrea Sarah: Bachelor of Science
Vasconez, Fabian: Bachelor of Arts
Weber, Catherine Allison: Bachelor of Science
Wilkinson, Carol Anne: Bachelor of Science
Wright, Danya Shay: Bachelor of Science

Bachelor of Science or Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, Summa Cum Laude

Cook, Carter Lyn: Bachelor of Science
Dickey, Danielle Nicole: Bachelor of Arts
Frost, Larkin Elizabeth: Bachelor of Arts
Hargrave, Stephanie Hasana: Bachelor of Science
Martinez Abreu, Osvaldo Ama: Bachelor of Arts
Parpia, Gabriela Ashifa: Bachelor of Science
Roberts, Angeline: Bachelor of Arts
Stone, Anna Elisabeth: Bachelor of Science

Bachelor of Science or Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, Cum Laude

Emanuel, Erin Elizabeth: Bachelor of Science
Larson, Randy Lynn: Bachelor of Science
McDonough, Riley Thomas: Bachelor of Arts
McGurn, Kyla Jessica: Bachelor of Science
Robinson, Kayla Rachelle: Bachelor of Science
Wenninghoff, Makenzie Peyto: Bachelor of Science

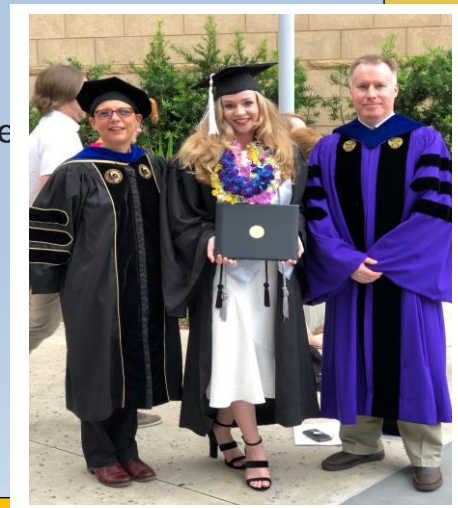
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies, Magna Cum Laude

Atterbury, Tori-Gaye
Vu, Nguyen Thao

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies, Cum Laude

Garbarini, Amy Carolina
Matejko, Maya Olivia
Peluso, Sara Rachel
Verley, Juliette

Pictured right, IDS faculty member Dr. Sharon Woodill with IDS '19 graduate Hope Freeman, and IDS Director, Dr. Wayne Bowen.



Interdisciplinary Studies

Late Spring, Summer '19

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			May 1	2 Graduation	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Summer '19 classes begin Late registration begins	14	15	16 Last day for full refund Drop/Swap deadline on myUCF	17 Late registration ends Add deadline on myUCF	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	June 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Last day to reinstate Drop for nonpayment deadline	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	July 1	2	3	4	5 Withdrawal deadline	6

Join the Interdisciplinary Studies Student Society! Visit them on Facebook at Interdisciplinary Studies Student Society @IDS.Society.UCF

Contact Dr. Sharon Woodill for more information at Sharon.Woodill@ucf.edu

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